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**National Center for Standards and
Certification Information - Services and Programs**

SUMMARY

The National Center for Standards and Certification Information (NCSCI), established in 1965, provides information on U.S., foreign and international voluntary standards, government regulations, and conformity assessment procedures for non-agricultural products. The Center serves as a referral service and focal point in the United States for information on standards and standards-related information. NCSCI staff respond to inquiries, maintain a reference collection of standards and standards-related documents, and serve as the U.S. inquiry point for information to and from foreign countries.

The Center is located in the Office of Standards Services, of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. It contributes to the Institute's goals of improving U.S. competitiveness in domestic and world markets and strengthening and advancing the development and use of the nation's science and technology by providing up-to-date information on standards and conformity assessment programs.

Center staff respond to written, telephone and walk-in requests for information by identifying relevant standards and/or regulations. Searches are made with the aid of various indexes, by contacting professional and standards-developing organizations, and through communicating directly with foreign standards bodies. The requester is referred to the appropriate standards-developing organization for additional (technical) information and/or copies of the document.

NCSCI serves as the U.S. inquiry point in response to obligations resulting from the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Information Network (ISONET), and the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NCSCI, with other national inquiry points, form networks that regularly exchange standards-related information. These networks provide the Center with access to foreign trade-related technical standards, regulations and conformity assessment procedures.

Signatories to the GATT TBT Agreement are required to report to the GATT Secretariat proposed government regulations which may significantly affect trade. The Secretariat, in turn, disseminates these notifications to all signatories. NCSCI receives, distributes, and maintains a file of these notifications along with the full text of the proposed regulations. A "GATT Hotline" - (301) 975-4041 - provides the latest information on notifications of proposed foreign technical regulations.

The Center provides assistance in identifying and obtaining relevant product standards and regulations for the European Union (formerly the European Community - EC). An "EC hotline" - (301) 921-4164 - provides information on draft European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) standards.

Working with other Office staff, NCSCI also provides: technical assistance to U.S. industry; analyses of standards issues; indexes and directories of specialized standards information; and translations of foreign standards (for which there is a charge).

About the Speaker

JoAnne Overman supervises the National Center for Standards and Certification Information (NCSCI) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The Center provides information on proposed and existing U.S., foreign and international standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. The Center serves as the U.S. inquiry point under the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and NAFTA and is the U.S. member body in the ISO Information Network (ISONET).

Ms. Overman received a BA in English from California State University at Northridge and has been involved in standards information since 1986. She represents the United States on the ISO Committee on Information (INFCO) and at meetings of the GATT inquiry points, and participates on the ISONET Management Board. Ms. Overman is a member of the Special Libraries Association and the Standards Engineering Society.

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR
STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION
INFORMATION (NCSCI)**

INFORMATION SERVICES

- Identify standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures
- Related standards information
- Referrals
- Translations
- Free service

REFERENCE COLLECTION

- U.S., foreign, international and regional standards
- U.S. federal and foreign technical regulations
- Conformity assessment information (U.S. and foreign)

INQUIRY POINT

- **Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (World Trade Organization)**
- **NAFTA**
- **ISONET**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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